

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers®

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

Public Notice/Application No.: 2003-01526-SDM

Comment Period: September 22, 2003 through October 21, 2003

Applicant

Mr. Andrzej Wojakiewicz Maricopa County Department of Transportation 2901 W. Durango Street Phoenix, Arizona 85009 (602) 506-8625

AGENT

Joe Pinto Maricopa County Dept. of Transportation 2901 W. Durango Street Phoenix, Arizona 85009 (602) 506-8068

Location

In the Hassayampa River at (Sections 12 & 13, T1S, R5W), Maricopa County, Arizona.

Activity

To construct scour protection for the Old U.S. 80 Highway Bridge by constructing soil cement spur dikes, a soil cement floor, excavating the channel, regrading the channel and bank slopes and constructing two thirty-inch pipes at the northeast spur dike, impacting approximately 3.5 acres within the Hassayampa River. For more information, see page 3 of this notice and attached drawings.

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein and shown on the attached drawing(s). Interested parties are invited to provide their views on the proposed work, which will become a part of the record and will be considered in the decision. This permit application will be issued or denied under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Comments can be e-mailed to sallie.mcguire@usace.army.mil or mailed to:

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTENTION: Regulatory Branch (2003-01526-SDM) 3636 North Central Avenue, Suite 900 Phoenix, Arizona 85012-1939

Evaluation Factors

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Factors that will be considered include conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, if the proposal would discharge dredged or fill material, the evaluation of the activity will include application of the EPA Guidelines (40 CFR 230) as required by Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Preliminary Review of Selected Factors

EIS Determination- A preliminary determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.

Water Quality- The applicant will be required to obtain water quality certification, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and/or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For any proposed activity on Tribal land that is subject to Section 404 jurisdiction, the applicant will be required to obtain water quality certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For any proposed activity on land other than Tribal land that is subject to Section 404 jurisdiction, the applicant will be required to obtain water quality certification from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires that any applicant for an individual Section 404 permit provide proof of water quality certification to the Corps of Engineers.

Cultural Resources- The latest version of the National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and this site is not listed. This review constitutes the extent of cultural resources investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources.

Endangered Species- Pursuant to the "Guidelines to ensure the Nationwide Permit program will not adversely affect the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl," dated February 24, 2003 and approved by the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this project may affect, likely to adversely affect, the cactus ferruginous pygmy owl. Therefore, the Corps has initiated formal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Preliminary determinations indicate that the proposed activity would not affect any other federally-listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat.

Public Hearing- Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearing shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Proposed Activity for Which a Permit is Required

Proposed activities include constructing soil-cement spur dikes on both sides of the bridge. Shotcrete would be applied to both spur dikes. A soil cement floor, constructed and then buried beneath the river channel would extend between the spur dikes. Two 30-inch pipes would be constructed at the northeast spur dike to allow drainage of a nearby farmer's field to correct drainage problems that were a result of bridge improvements in 1993. The channel's bank slopes would be re-graded along the east abutment.

In order to install the soil cement floor, channel excavation would be required. Due to the presence of water in the channel, the floor would be constructed in stages. The existing channel would be diverted to the eastern half of the Hassayampa River, if needed, using temporary earthen dikes while constructing the floor and west spur dike on the west side of the bridge. Once the west side is completed, the channel would be diverted to the western half of the river in order to construct the eastern portion of the project. Upon completion of the project, the low flow channel would be relocated back to its original location.

Permanent impacts to the Hassayampa River from construction of the cement floor and spur dikes are proposed to be 1.7 acres. Temporary impacts to the river from temporary construction access are proposed to be 1.8 acres, bringing the total proposed impacts to 3.5 acres.

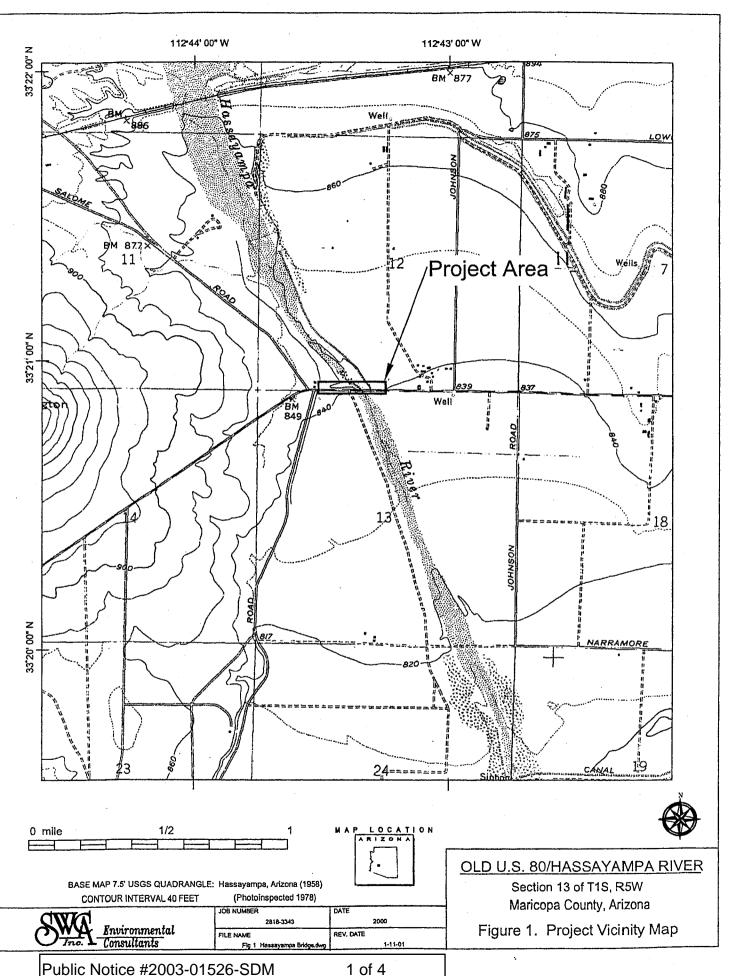
Additional Project Information

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation completed a scour analysis in 1997 throughout the county's bridge network. The Old U.S. 80 Highway Bridge over the Hassayampa River was determined to be scour critical. In the analysis, it was determined that the pier frames of the bridge are unstable and under the stress of a 100-year storm event, the integrity and safety of the bridge could potentially be compromised. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide scour protection as recommended in the scour analysis and maintain safe roadway conditions.

Proposed Special Conditions

To be developed.

For additional information please call Sallie D. McGuire at (602) 640-5385 x 221. This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Branch.



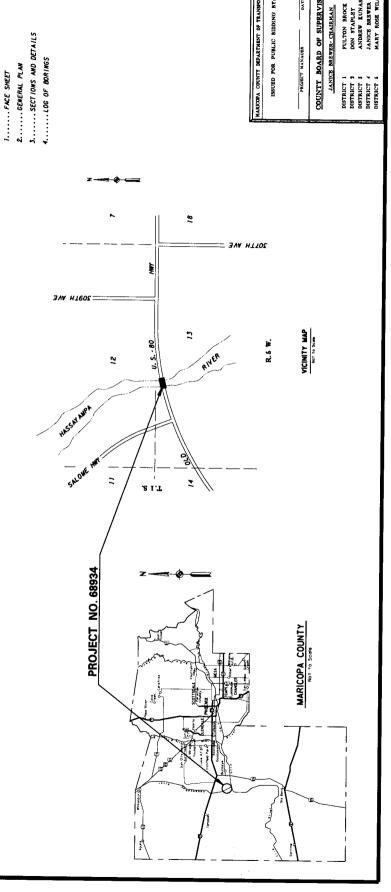
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MARICOPA COUNTY

U.S.- 80 HIGHWAY BRIDGE - HASSAYAMPA RIVER SCOUR PROTECTION FOR OLD

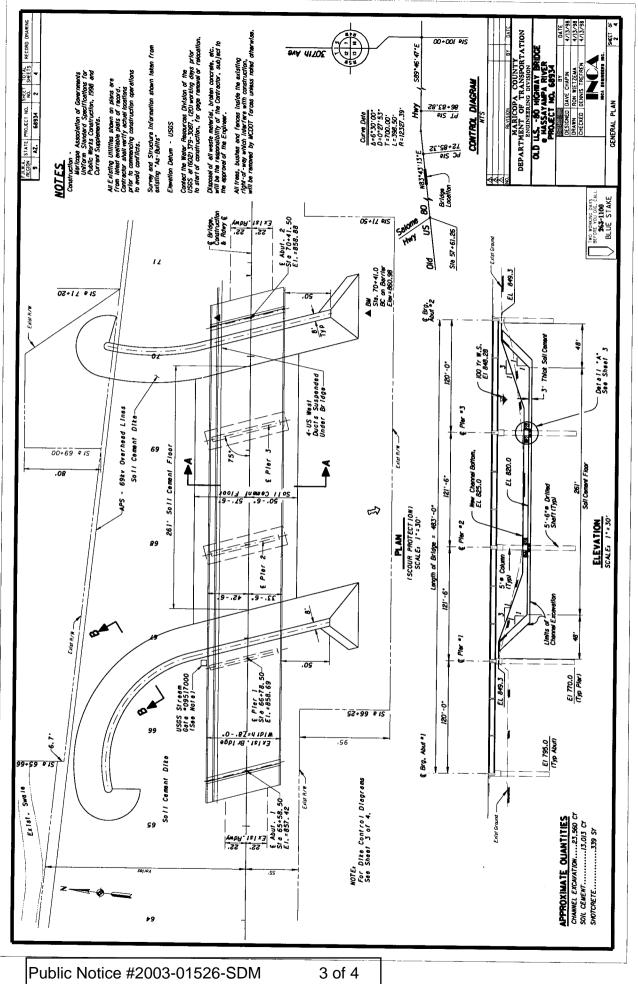
PROJECT NO. 68934

INDEX OF SHEETS

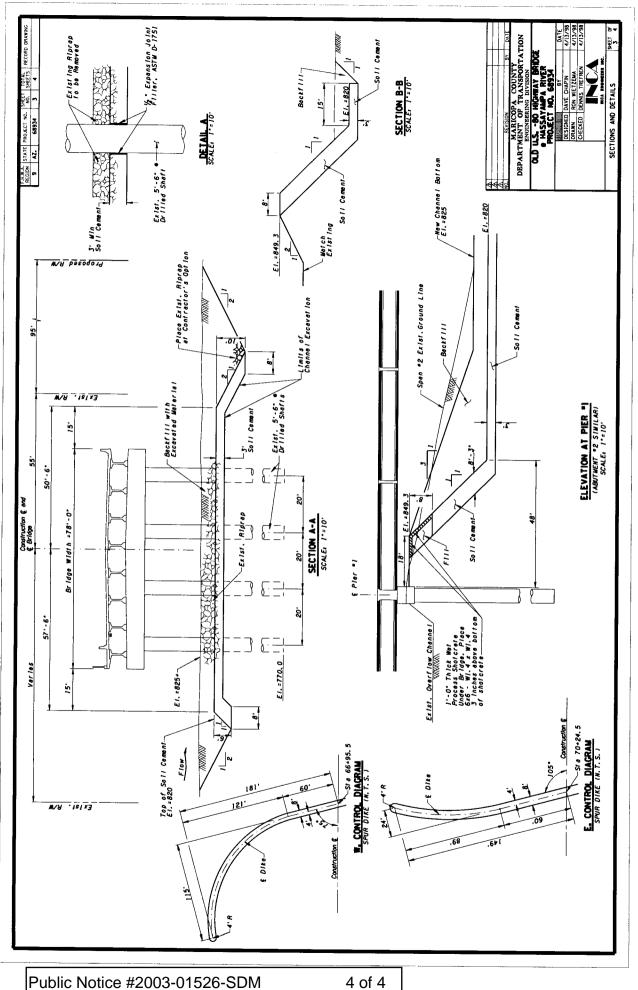




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